

**REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII**

**Pursuant to Chapter 321-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
requesting the Department of Health to submit a report on
the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund**

**PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAII**

December 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2005

The Environmental Health Education Fund supports the training of Department of Health staff and food establishment personnel; as well as provides educational outreach to the general public regarding food safety. This report provides a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the Environmental Health Education Fund to demonstrate the significance of this fund to public health. This report is submitted under Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states that the Department “shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures...”

The mission of the EHSD branches is to optimize public health and environmental practices through education, prevention, assessment and compliance. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices or vectors.

The programs in EHSD are in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and Noise, Radiation and Indoor Air Quality. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; evaluating and monitoring for indoor air quality, asbestos and lead; assessing concerns of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and abating vectors in public areas.

Staff training, public education, information management, and program enhancement remain significant focuses for maximizing efficiency and effectiveness of staff in order to satisfy performance of program objectives. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes.

The current practice of utilization of an educational approach to inform the public; and motivate operators toward compliance with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. In this regard, it is recognized that compliance with rules and regulations, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program's regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always continuous, especially in areas where scientific findings occur. An informed public with a clear understanding of the public health rationale of program functions and corresponding regulatory requirements is a fundamental goal in assuring that

potential environmental health problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

STATUS OF THE EHEF

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews into the fund pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

Revenues collected for fiscal year 2005 and deposited into the fund totaled \$597,903.80. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, and license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

Expenditures of \$386,984 are for personnel and operating costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program (located on the Big Island and Oahu, respectively), and one Data Processing Systems Analyst IV. The two Registered Sanitarians in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provide educational and training opportunities for food establishments statewide, which is consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. The Data Processing Systems Analyst IV provides the Division with technical support for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs on computer matters. A Data Processing Systems Analyst III position is established to provide additional support in computer systems management.

For fiscal year 2005, the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provided the following:

FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION PROGRAM

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops Given:	22
Student Attendance:	454
Students Certified:	392
Food Safety Classes Given:	42
Student Attendance:	803

The EHEF also enables the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division the means of providing improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2005:

1. A Registered Sanitarian, whose responsibilities are key to regulating the milk industry in Hawaii, attended the Pacific Region Milk Seminar in Reno, Nevada, November 14 - 19, 2004.
2. The Vector Control Branch program manager attended the 71st Annual American Mosquito Control Association Conference in Vancouver, April 3 – 7, 2005.
3. A Food & Drug Inspector attended the Pacific Rim Shellfish Conference I Reno, Nevada, April 26 – 27, 2005.
4. The program manager for the Food & Drug Branch attended a workshop in Kansas City, Missouri, June 4 – 8, 2005 on Implementing Strategies for Food Protection and Defense.
5. The Food & Drug Branch program manager, a Food & Drug Inspector, a Registered Sanitarian in the Food Consultation and Education program, and a Registered Sanitarian in the Sanitation program attended the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, June 26 – 29, 2005.
6. In partnership with the Hawaii Environmental Health Association, the Environmental Health Services Division sponsored an annual education conference on December 1 & 2, 2004. The division also sponsored a Disaster Response Seminar on May 4 & 5, 2005.
7. Various program and division meetings for managers and staff were also conducted.
7. Investments in expanding, upgrading and improving the division's computer infrastructure and information management system continued.

Expenditures including personnel costs and encumbrances for fiscal year 2005 totaled \$386,984.

In summary, it would not have been possible to fund many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities and technology infrastructure advancements without the Environmental Health Education Fund. Prudent utilization of expenditures for FY 2006 will continue to ensure the protection of public health needs through effective and efficient government services.